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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 869

By Miller J

A RESOLUTION to recognize Billy H. Thompson on the occasion
of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those persons who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Billy H. Thompson is one such estimable person who has served with probity for twenty-eight years with the Division of State Parks for the Department of Environment and Conservation; and

WHEREAS, Billy Thompson, the son of Mrs. Reba Parks Thompson of Maryville, Tennessee, attended Loudon County High School where he was a band member for four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson initially worked as a barber and a banker in Lenoir City and, in 1962, married his wife Ann, with whom he has shared life's trials and triumphs for the past 38 years; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's system of state parks is one of the jewels in the list of assets of our state, and those dedicated persons who administer them are essential to their excellent

state of maintenance and appeal; in 1972, Billy went to work as a Ranger at the Natchez Trace State Park; and

WHEREAS, between 1972 and 1979, Mr. Thompson served with distinction as a Ranger in Natchez Trace, Montgomery Bell, Pickett, and Pickwick Landing State Parks; in recognition of his abilities he was promoted to Park Manager in 1979 and served in that position until this year at the South Cumberland Recreation Area, Old Stone Fort, Norris Dam and Fort Loudoun State Parks; and

WHEREAS, from 1983-87, Billy Thompson was also District Manager for Tennessee State Parks; throughout his service with the parks, he sang at park events, thereby putting to good use the voice lessons he took during his school years; and

WHEREAS, Billy has a continuing interest in the fortunes of collegiate sports of the University of Tennessee; in addition, he restores and drives vintage automobiles and attends car shows; and

WHEREAS, despite the many moves involved in his career with State Parks Division, Mr. Thompson has always sought out a church in which to become involved. He has served as Music Director at Calvary Baptist in Lenoir City, Mars Hill Baptist, Oral Baptist near Lenoir City, and Main Street Baptist in Lake City, and is presently a member of Bethel Church at Norris, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Billy's outstanding musical talent has made him known regionally as a gospel tenor in the Men of Bethel, and he has recorded several tapes of gospel music; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; besides his wife Anne, he enjoys the love and support of his daughters, Robin Thompson Warwick of Maynardville and LeAnne Thompson Leftwich of Auburn, Kentucky, and his brother Don Thompson. Billy and Anne are the proud grandparents of Tyler Warwick; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Billy Thompson has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential, winning the respect and admiration of his peers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we thank Billy H. Thompson for his twenty-eight years of dedicated and unstinting service in the Tennessee State Parks system and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.